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Serial No.: 10/036,746

Docket No.: KCC-15,796

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants amended independent Claims 1 and 57 to recite the bonding is via a crosslinker. Support for this Amendment can be found throughout Applicants' Specification, for example, at page 27, last paragraph, through page 30, line 4. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 13, 14, 17-22, 25-30, 32-34, 41, 45-60, 63, 65, 67, 68, 70, 71, 75, 76, 78-80, and 87 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Tanzer et al., U.S. Patent 6,429,350, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner says that because the Tanzer et al. Patent discloses spraying an adhesive over the pocketed layer material, the superabsorbent material would be sprayed with adhesive and thus be bonded to the fibers. To clarify the claimed invention, Applicants amended independent Claims 1 and 57 to recite the superabsorbent material is bonded via a crosslinker to the surge material fibers. The Tanzer et al. Patent does not disclose or suggest crosslinking a superabsorbent material precursor to a surge material to bond the superabsorbent material to the fibers. Thus the Tanzer et al. Patent does not disclose or suggest Applicants' recited superabsorbent material bonded via a crosslinker to the surge material fibers.

KCC-2113

24

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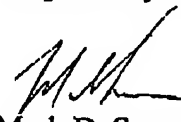
As the Tanzer et al. Patent does not disclose a superabsorbent material bonded via a crosslinker to a surge material in a discrete region, as in Applicants' claimed invention, the Tanzer et al. Patent does not anticipate Claims 1 and 57. The remaining claims depend from one of Claims 1 and 57, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not resolved in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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KCC-2113

25

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